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**CLAIMS:**

What is claimed is:

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1. A method for providing products, the method comprising:

receiving, at an automatic product/service  
dispensing machine in a micronetwork of proximally  
10 located diverse automatic product/service dispensing  
machines, a request for an item;

responsive to a determination that the item is  
unavailable at a current automatic product/service  
dispensing machine, providing a user with an alternative  
15 redemption product.

2. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the  
alternative redemption product is a redemption coupon.

20 3. The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the  
redemption coupon may be redeemed at a store.

4. The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the  
redemption coupon is an electronic redemption coupon.

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5. The method as recited in claim 2, further  
comprising:

providing redirection information to the user  
regarding a location at which the redemption coupon may  
30 be redeemed for an item.

6. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the

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alternative redemption product is a monetary credit to a smart card.

7. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the  
5 alternative redemption product is an item different from the requested item.

8. The method as recited in claim 7, wherein the item  
10 different from the requested item is offered at a discount.

9. A method for providing products, the method comprising:

15 detecting the presence of a portable electronic data processing system; and

pushing information about products available in a micronetwork of automated product dispensing machines.

10. The method as recited in claim 9, wherein the  
20 information comprises at least one of product location information, product pricing information, and product availability information.

11. The method as recited in claim 9, wherein bluetooth  
25 is used to for detecting and pushing.

12. A computer program product in a computer readable media for use in a data processing system for providing products, the computer program product comprising:

30 first instructions for receiving, at an automatic product/service dispensing machine in a micronetwork of proximally located diverse automatic product/service

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dispensing machines, a request for an item;

second instructions, responsive to a determination  
that the item is unavailable at a current automatic  
product/service dispensing machine, for providing a user  
5 with an alternative redemption product.

13. The computer program product as recited in claim 12,  
wherein the alternative redemption product is a  
redemption coupon.

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14. The computer program product as recited in claim 13,  
wherein the redemption coupon may be redeemed at a store.

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15. The computer program product as recited in claim 13,  
wherein the redemption coupon is an electronic redemption  
coupon.

16. The computer program product as recited in claim 13,  
further comprising:

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third instructions for providing redirection  
information to the user regarding a location at which the  
redemption coupon may be redeemed for an item.

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17. The computer program product as recited in claim 12,  
wherein the alternative redemption product is a monetary  
credit to a smart card.

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18. The computer program product as recited in claim 12,  
wherein the alternative redemption product is an item  
different from the requested item.

19. The computer program product as recited in claim 18,

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wherein the item different from the requested item is offered at a discount.

20. A computer program product in a computer readable  
5 media for use in a data processing system for providing products, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for detecting the presence of a portable electronic data processing system; and

10 second instructions for pushing information about products available in a micronetwork of automated product dispensing machines.

21. The computer program product as recited in claim 20,  
15 wherein the information comprises at least one of product location information, product pricing information, and product availability information.

22. The computer program product as recited in claim 20,  
20 wherein bluetooth is used to for detecting and pushing.

23. A system for providing products, the system comprising:

25 means for receiving, at an automatic product/service dispensing machine in a micronetwork of proximally located diverse automatic product/service dispensing machines, a request for an item;

30 means, responsive to a determination that the item is unavailable at a current automatic product/service dispensing machine, for providing a user with an alternative redemption product.

24. The system as recited in claim 23, wherein the

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alternative redemption product is a redemption coupon.

25. The system as recited in claim 24, wherein the redemption coupon may be redeemed at a store.

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26. The system as recited in claim 24, wherein the redemption coupon is an electronic redemption coupon.

27. The system as recited in claim 24 further comprising:

means for providing redirection information to the user regarding a location at which the redemption coupon may be redeemed for an item.

15 28 The system as recited in claim 23, wherein the alternative redemption product is a monetary credit to a smart card.

20 29. The system as recited in claim 23, wherein the alternative redemption product is an item different from the requested item.

25 30. The system as recited in claim 29, wherein the item different from the requested item is offered at a discount.

31. A system for providing products, the system comprising:

30 means for detecting the presence of a portable electronic data processing system; and

means for pushing information about products available in a micronetwork of automated product

dispensing machines.

33. The system as recited in claim 31, wherein bluetooth is used to for detecting and pushing.